

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) ~~Device~~ A device for dynamic tensioning of a natural or prosthetic knee joint, comprising:

at least one femoral insert which has a condyle support surface for a femoral implant or bone;

at least one tibial insert which has a support surface for a tibial plate for a tibial implant or bone; and

means for applying, between the femoral and tibial inserts, a distraction force of a predetermined strength,

said device is constructed so as to ~~allow rotation~~ enable flexion of the knee joint and further comprises means for maintaining, in use, the a knee in a state of tension during ~~rotation~~ flexion, so as to enable measurements for various angles of ~~rotation~~ flexion to be performed,

wherein the condyle support surface ~~is provided with~~ includes sliding means ~~for~~ that enable the femoral implant or bone to slide when the knee joint is ~~displaced~~ flexed, the sliding means comprising juxtaposed rollers.

2. (currently amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 1, wherein the condyle support surface is in the form of a dish.

3-7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 1, wherein a femoral insert, and optionally a tibial insert, is/are provided for each inner and outer compartment of the knee joint.

9. (currently amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 1, further comprising means for measuring the spacing of the condyle support surfaces and tibial plate support surfaces, said means for measuring the spacing are capable of continuously measuring the spacing between the support surfaces when the knee joint is displaced.

10. (currently amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 1, further comprising means for measuring the distraction force between the femoral ~~inserts~~ and tibial inserts, said means for measuring the distraction force are capable of continuously measuring the variation of the strength of the distraction force around the predetermined strength thereof when the knee joint is displaced.

11. (currently amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 1, wherein there are two femoral inserts and two tibial inserts and wherein the means for applying the distraction force comprise a force generation unit and a pair of branches which connect the generation unit to the femoral inserts and tibial inserts.

12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 1, wherein the sliding means comprise juxtaposed roller bearings.

14-15. (canceled)

16. (currently amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 1, wherein the condyle support surface is substantially cylindrical, having an axis which is substantially transverse relative to the direction of distraction.

17-19. (canceled)

20. (currently amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 1, wherein a maximum thickness of each femoral insert and tibial insert is less than or equal to 2.5 mm.

21. (currently amended) A device for dynamic tensioning of a natural or prosthetic knee joint said device enables ~~rotation~~ flexion of the joint and comprises:

a first femoral insert having a condyle support surface for a femoral implant or bone;

a first tibial insert having a support surface for a tibial plate for a tibial implant or bone; and

an assembly that applies a distraction force of a predetermined strength between the first femoral and tibial inserts,

wherein said assembly comprises a force generation unit that ~~maintains the~~ is configured, in use, to maintain a knee in a state of tension during ~~rotation~~ flexion, so as to enable measurements for various angles of rotation to be performed, and

wherein the condyle support surface comprises juxtaposed rollers that enable the femoral implant or bone to slide when the knee joint is ~~rotated~~ flexed.

22. (previously presented) The device according to claim 21, wherein the condyle support surface is in a shape of a dish.

23. (currently amended) The device according to claim 21, further comprising a second femoral insert and optionally a second tibial insert said first and second femoral inserts and

said first and optional second tibial inserts are respectively configured for each inner and outer compartment of the knee joint.

24. (previously presented) The device according to claim 21, further comprising means for measuring the spacing of the condyle support surfaces and tibial plate support surfaces that continuously measure the spacing between the support surfaces when the knee joint is displaced.

25. (currently amended) The device according to claim 21, further comprising a pressure gauge that indicates the distraction force between the first femoral insert and the first tibial insert, said pressure gauge continuously indicates a variation of a strength of the distraction force around the predetermined strength thereof when the knee joint is displaced.

26. (currently amended) The device according to claim 21, wherein the assembly further comprises a pair of branches which connect the force generation unit to the first femoral insert and the first tibial insert.

27. (previously presented) The device according to claim 21, wherein the condyle support surface is substantially cylindrical, having an axis which is substantially transverse relative to a direction of distraction.

28. (currently amended) The device according to claim 21, wherein a maximum thickness of the first femoral insert and the first tibial insert is less than or equal to 2.5 mm.